



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Washington, D.C. 20240



IN REPLY REFER TO:

D-7800
ACM-1.10

January 10, 2006

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

MEMORANDUM

To: Reclamation Leadership Team

From: Larry L. Todd /s/
Deputy Commissioner – Policy, Administration, and Budget

Subject: Rescission of Policy for the Acquisition of Video Display Terminal (VDT) Eyeglasses

This memorandum supersedes previous regulations and guidance concerning the acquisition of VDT eyeglasses, specifically the memorandum dated October 14, 1998, titled “Acquisition of Safety and Video Display Terminal Eyeglasses” and Reclamation Acquisition Regulation WBR 1423.302.84 (a)(3)(i)(ii). This rescission is effective immediately. The purchase of eyeglasses, and related eye examinations, for employees who work at video display terminals is no longer authorized.

Due to the advances in technology, working at a computer terminal does not present an eye hazard. Additionally a reassessment of federal regulations and guidelines, as well as a pertinent Government Accountability Office (GAO) ruling dated February 21, 2001, indicates that it is not appropriate for the Bureau of Reclamation to reimburse and/or allow employees to purchase corrective, personal eyewear (GAO Decisions B-213415 and B-286137) with appropriated funds. Furthermore, there is no applicable safety standard for VDT eyeglasses in the Occupational Safety and Health Act, 29 U.S.C. §§ 651–678.

Therefore, no statutory authority exists for the purchase of VDT glasses, and personal prescription eyewear is not considered Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Personal corrective eyewear is suitable only for the employee for whom it has been specifically prescribed; and, as such, the cost of prescription eyewear is the responsibility of the individual employee and appropriated funds are not available to pay for this expense.

On the other hand, Reclamation policy provides that safety-related items may be purchased in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Reclamation Safety and Health Standards (RSHS), Section 8, which can be found at: <http://www.usbr.gov/ssle/safety/RSHS/rshs.html>. Thus, the need may exist for prescription safety glasses for employees engaged in **hazardous** duties with specific written authorization. These types of glasses become, and remain, the property of the government.

Any employee requesting special safety glasses shall be authorized only with specific written authorization reviewed on a case-by-case basis. The completion of a job hazard analysis form (Form 7-2037) is required and must accompany any request for special-use safety glasses. The job hazard analysis form may be found at: <http://intra.usbr.gov/forms/pdf/7-2037.pdf>.

Questions regarding this policy should be addressed to Linda Rowley, Manager, Safety and Health Program, at 303-445-2695, or Karla Smiley, Manager, Acquisitions and Assistance Management Division, at 303-445-2450.

cc: D-1430 (Rowley), D-2200 (Feuerstein, Wendling), D-7000 (Flores, Harrison),
D-7800 (Neukirchner, Smiley), D-7810 (Eckelberg), D-8000 (Gabaldon, Weitkamp),
D-9000 (Hennig, Medina), PN-3700 (Ford), MP-3800 (Ventuleth), LC-3100 (Guilbert),
UC-800 (Durrant, Ward), GP-3800 (Worley)